

master. With the Summoner in the
Canterbury Pilgrim

^af^e»

rode
ther rood a gentil Pardoner Of
Bouncival, his freend and his compeer,
That streight was coraen *fro* the Court of
Borne ;

His walet lay biform him in his lappe,
brim-ful *hot*
Bret-nil of pardoun come from. Bome al hoot.
goat

A voys he hadde as smal as
hath a goot.

• • • • •
But of his craft, fro Berwick
into Ware, Ne was ther swich
another pardoner.

"bag *pillow-case*
For in his male he hadde a pilwe-beer
Our Lady's
veil Which that, he seyde, was our
lady veyle j

cross made of latten set with
Jewels He hadde a croys of latoun
fol of stones

pig's And in
a glas he hadde pigges bones.
these *found*
But with thise relikes, whan that he fond
A poor parson living up-
country A porre" person
dwelling up-on lond,

one
TJp-on a day he gat him more
moneye Than that the person gat
in month[^]s twey, And thus with
feigned flatterye and japes He
made the person and the peple
apes.

So speaks Chaucer.¹ Langland has left a very
similar description of a Pardoner at work in a
village :—

There preached a pardoner as if he a
priest were, And brought forth a bull
with a bishop's seals, And said that he
could absolve them all Of breaking their
fasts and of breaking their vows.
Ignorant men loved him well and liked
his words, Came and kneeled to kiss his
bulls.

Were the bishop blessed or worth both
his ears His seal should not be sent to
deceive the people.

In another passage Langland breaks out
against the prelacy for abuse **of** its spiritual
power in the following spirited lines;—

¹ Prologue to *Canterbury Tales*,